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European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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14 March 1978

DOCUMENT 580/77

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and
Transport

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the
Council (Doc. 500/77) for a directive amending Directive 76/135/EEC on
/reciprocal recognition of navigability licences for inland waterway vessels

Rapporteur: Mr W. ALBERS

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PE 52.387/fin.

English Edition

By letter of 16 January 1978 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 75 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending Directive 76/135/EEC on reciprocal recognition of navigability licences for inland waterway vessels.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport.

On 31 January 1978 the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport appointed Mr Albers rapporteur.

It discussed the proposal at its meeting of 1 March 1978 and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

The committee decided to request that the report should be dealt with in plenary sitting without debate.

Present: Mr Evans, chairman; Mr Nyborg, vice-chairman; Mr Albers, rapporteur; Lord Bruce of Donington (deputizing for Mr Ellis), Mr Fuchs, Mr Hamilton, Mrs Kellett-Bowman, Mr Mascagni, Mr Osborn and Mr Seefeld.

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The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending Directive 76/135/EEC on reciprocal recognition of navigability licences for inland waterway vessels

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 75 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 500/77),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport (Doc. 580/77),

Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹ OJ No. C 13, 17.1.1978, p.4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. With a view to achieving greater safety on inland waterways, the Commission submitted to the Council at the end of 1975 a proposal concerning reciprocal recognition of navigability licences for inland waterway vessels (Doc. 355/75).

The European Parliament delivered a favourable opinion (Doc. 359/75) on this proposal on the basis of a report drawn up by Mr Gerlach on behalf of the then Committee on Regional Policy and Transport.

On 20 January 1976 the Council adopted Directive No. 76/135, to which the Commission now proposes two amendments.

2. The mutual recognition of navigability licences must be regarded as a first step towards a uniform system of technical controls of inland waterway vessels in the Community. One of the next steps will be the adoption at Community level of uniform technical provisions, with the Commission taking as its basis the preparatory work done within the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.

3. Article 5 of the 1976 directive required the Council to adopt, not later than 1 January 1978 and on a proposal from the Commission, common provisions establishing technical requirements for inland waterway vessels.

However, when the list of technical requirements was being drawn up, unforeseen difficulties were encountered, with the result that not only has it been impossible to observe the deadline, but in all probability it will be some time before the Commission can submit practical proposals to the Council on this subject.

The Commission therefore proposes that '1 January 1978' in Article 5 of the directive should be replaced by '1 January 1980'.

4. A second amendment, which follows on from the first, more specifically concerns Article 7 of Directive No. 76/135. According to this article, the directive will remain valid until 31 December 1978.

Article 7 also stipulates that the Council may, on a proposal from the Commission, extend the validity of the directive until the provisions establishing technical requirements referred to in Article 5 enter into force. The Commission now wishes to take advantage of this possibility.

5. Although your committee appreciates that difficulties may occur during the listing of technical requirements, it urges the Commission to speed up its work so that a system of uniform technical requirements can be introduced in the Community by 1 January 1980 at the latest.